

New Hampshire

Adoption Assistance- Who Do You Contact?

State Contact information

<p style="text-align: center;">Adoption Assistance Specialist</p> <p>NAME: Catherine Atkins</p> <p>ADDRESS: Department of Health and Human Services Division for Children, Youth and Families Adoption Program 129 Pleasant Street (Brown Building) Concord, New Hampshire 03301</p> <p>E-MAIL: catkins@dhhs.state.nh.us</p> <p>TELEPHONE: 603.271.4707</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ICAMA Compact Administrator Or Contact</p> <p>NAME: Catherine Atkins</p> <p>ADDRESS: Department of Health and Human Services Division for Children, Youth and Families Adoption Program 129 Pleasant Street (Brown Building) Concord, New Hampshire 03301</p> <p>E-MAIL: catkins@dhhs.state.nh.us</p> <p>TELEPHONE: 603.271.4707</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Adoption Program Manager or Contact</p> <p>NAME: Catherine Atkins</p> <p>ADDRESS: Department of Health and Human Services Division for Children, Youth and Families Adoption Program 129 Pleasant Street (Brown Building) Concord, New Hampshire 03301</p> <p>E-MAIL: catkins@dhhs.state.nh.us</p> <p>TELEPHONE: 603.271.4707</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ICPC Compact Administrator Or Contact</p> <p>NAME: Linda Bombaci</p> <p>ADDRESS: Department of Health and Human Services Division for Children, Youth and Families Adoption Program 129 Pleasant Street (Brown Building) Concord, New Hampshire 03301</p> <p>E-MAIL: lbombaci@dhhs.state.nh.us</p> <p>TELEPHONE: 603.271.4708</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Post Adoption Services Contact</p> <p>NAME: Catherine Atkins</p> <p>ADDRESS: Department of Health and Human Services Division for Children, Youth and Families Adoption Program 129 Pleasant Street (Brown Building) Concord, New Hampshire 03301</p> <p>E-MAIL: catkins@ahhs.state.nh.us</p> <p>TELEPHONE: 603.271.4707</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Medical Assistance Specialist</p> <p>NAME: Simone Roy</p> <p>ADDRESS: Department of Health and Human Services Division for Children, Youth and Families Adoption Program 129 Pleasant Street (Brown Building) Concord, New Hampshire 03301</p> <p>E-MAIL: sroy@dhhs.state.nh.us</p> <p>TELEPHONE: 603.271.4694</p>

Adoption Assistance- Who is Eligible?

A good place to start. Public adoption in New Hampshire is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). DHHS, DCYF, and adoption links: www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DHHS_SITE/default.htm, www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DCYF/default.htm and www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/ADOPTION/default.htm. Or phone: 603.271.4707 or 800.852.3345.

1. What specific factors or conditions does your state consider to determine that a child cannot be placed with adoptive parents without providing financial assistance? (*"What is your state definition of special needs?"*)

A child with special needs is defined as a child that has at least one of the following needs or circumstances that may be a barrier to placement or adoption without financial assistance:

- Six years of age or older (if age is the only factor used to determine the need for adoption assistance)
- Member of a minority or ethnic group
- Member of a sibling group of two or more which should be placed together
- A physical or mental handicap or emotional disturbance
- A language barrier

2. What are the eligibility criteria for your state-funded adoption assistance program?

In order to be eligible for state-funded adoption assistance a child must be a special needs child as defined above.

3. What is the maximum amount a family may receive in non-recurring adoption expenses from your state? Adoptive parents can receive reimbursement of certain approved, "one-time" adoption expenses incurred in the process of finalizing a special needs adoption.

\$2,000.00

4. Does your state enter into deferred adoption assistance agreements? In some states, adoptive parents can enter into an agreement in which they choose to defer the receipt of a Medicaid card, the monthly monetary payment, or both and can elect to receive the Medicaid card and/or monetary payment at another time.

New Hampshire offers deferred adoption assistance.

5. When may adoption assistance payments and benefits begin in your state?

Adoption assistance payments and benefits may begin in New Hampshire at placement.

6. How are changes made to the adoption assistance agreement in your state?

- a. When can a parent request a change in the adoption assistance agreement?
- b. How does a parent request a change in the adoption assistance agreement?
- c. What if a parent does not receive the change they request in the adoption assistance agreement?

Adoptive parents can make a request to change the adoption assistance agreement at any time. Requests can be made to the adoption assistance worker and can be either written or verbal. Requests for change are based on a change in the circumstances of the family or the needs of the child and each request is considered on an individual basis. If the parent disagrees with an answer to the requested change, they have the right to request an appeal of the decision and seek a fair hearing. See Question #10 for more information on the fair hearing process in New Hampshire.

Adoption Assistance- Post Adoption Services

7. What types of post adoption services are available in your state and how do I find out more about them?

Post adoption services in New Hampshire are administered by the DHHS, Department of Children, Youth and Families and include the following examples:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Resource and referral | 5. Support groups |
| 2. Educational programs | 6. Case management |
| 3. Educational materials | 7. Counseling |
| 4. Respite | 8. Adoption search services |

New Hampshire partners with the College for Lifelong Learning, a university-based service that develops instruction on an identified need. The organization provides training for foster and adoptive families three or four times annually on a range of subjects including attachment issues, ADHD, and developmental disability. Contact Lifelong Learning at 603.271.4946. See the University System of New Hampshire, College for Lifelong Learning link: www.cll.edu/news/pr_archives/pr_10-24-02.htm. For adoption search services, see under Eligibility, *Adoption search services may be available to*, link: www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/ADOPTION/ELIGIBILITY/default.htm.

Many private organizations offer a variety of respite options. See New Hampshire's Respite Programs link: www.respitelocator.org/n2states.htm. To contact DHHS, DCYF, see the contact and information link: www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/ADOPTION/CONTACT+INFO/default.htm.

Note: Not all services may be available in all cases. Contact your adoption assistance worker or post adoption services contact for information regarding process, eligibility, availability, and duration of services.

Adoption Assistance- Medical assistance

8. What mental health services are provided by your state?

Public mental health services for children in New Hampshire are administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community and Public Health and include the following examples: inpatient hospitalization, psychotherapy, social work counseling, mental health services, pastoral counseling, prescription drugs, and respite care.

Contact the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health at the State Office Park South, location: 105 Pleasant Street; Concord, NH 03301. Phone: 603.271.8140 or 800.852.3345. MH resources link: www.mentalhealth.org/publications/allpubs/stateresourceguides/newhampshire01.asp.

New Hampshire Medicaid link: www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/MEDICAIDPROGRAM/default.htm and Targeted Medicaid Services link: www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/MEDICAIDPROGRAM/targeted-services.htm.

Note: Not all services may be available in all cases. Contact your adoption assistance worker or medical assistance specialist for information regarding process, eligibility, availability, and duration of services.

9. Does your state provide additional finances or services for medical or therapeutic needs not covered under your state medical plan to children receiving adoption assistance?

New Hampshire does not offer additional finances or services for medical or therapeutic needs not covered under their state medical plan to children receiving adoption assistance. New Hampshire adoption assistance staff will assist families in obtaining other available resources.

Adoption Assistance- Fair Hearings

10. What is your state's process for applying for a fair hearing? A fair hearing is a legal, administrative procedure that provides a forum to address disagreements with agency decisions.

Adoptive parents may appeal any Department of Children, Youth and Family decision that affects their child's adoption assistance benefits. Requests for fair hearing can be in writing regarding eligibility, review, termination and suspension of the adoption assistance. Contact Linda Magoon at the following address:

Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families
105 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Adoption Assistance- Web/Internet Information

11. What is your state Web address for general adoption information?

New Hampshire's general adoption links: www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/ADOPTION/FAQs/default.htm and www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/ADOPTION/ELIGIBILITY/default.htm. See also Laws-Rules-Policies on adoption, link: www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/ADOPTION/LAWS-RULES-POLICIES/default.htm.

12. What is your state Web address for adoption assistance information?

New Hampshire's adoption assistance links: www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/ADOPTION/FAQs/default.htm#6 (See #6, *Is any assistance available for adoption?*) and www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/ADOPTION/FAQs/default.htm#7 (See #7, *I have a question about an adoption subsidy, what should I do?*) Both answers are found on the Frequently Asked Questions page.

13. What is your state Web address for state-specific medical assistance information for children?

New Hampshire's state-specific medical assistance links: www.nhmedicaid.com/, www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/MEDICAIDPROGRAM/default.htm and www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/BMCH/default.htm (Bureau of Maternal and Child Health)